

A enters the witness stand reads the contract and declares that B did not drive the sheep *into* the river at all nor dip them and the contract calls for both. B occupies the stand with Worcester's Unabridged dictionary and says, "I have standard authority to prove that I fulfilled the contract. 'Here *unto*' is one of the meanings of *'into*' and *'wet*' one of the meanings of *'dip*.' Here I prove that *'into*' means *'at*' and *'dip*' *'wet*,' hence I fulfilled the contract and claim the fifty dollars. No honest sensible jury in the world would say that A should pay B the fifty dollars.

But why not? If a man has a right to choose any meaning of a word they would have decided in his favor sure. Give me such liberty and I can prove or disprove almost anything.

The judge would instruct the jury that every word has *one fixed* meaning called the *primary* and that must always be followed unless the circumstances prove it impossible. Our pedo-baptists do what B did to justify sprinkling and pouring.

All admit that immerse is the *only* primary meaning of the word baptize, but they claim the right to use other meanings, which right is positively forbidden by the rules of language. Our Baptist friends are entirely right in following the rules of language to ascertain the meaning of the word; our Pede Baptists are equally right by following the rules of language in ascertaining the meaning of the construction of the baptismal formula. Therefore follow the rules that apply to construction of the commission as taught by these Pede Baptists; also the rules that prove the meaning of the word baptize as taught by the baptists; put the two together and we have the *only* apostolic baptism. The oldest baptism taught in history, the prevailing mode practiced until the fifteenth century, the mode of the Greek church from the apostles up to the present time, the only mode that all Evangelical Churches acknowledge valid—namely, TRINE IMMERSION.

819 West Cumberland St., Phil.

THERE are secret times to every Christian—times of prayer, of praise, of meditation, all by himself. He cannot be a true Christian without these secret times. But no Christian can be a Christian wholly in secret. He cannot be a true Christian without being a Christian openly, frankly, publicly. The heart and the hand are both essential features of the Christian life. The inner pulse must beat against, altho not with, the outer world. *Sunday-School Times.*

CONCENTRATION AND CO-OPERATION.

The BRETHREN EVANGELIST comes to us again this evening filled as usual with very many good things. I am much pleased to learn that there were so many more Brethren quarterlies taken at the beginning of this year than there were last by over eight hundred copies. This is very gratifying.

Our California Brethren will also read brother H. M. Lichty's article in No. 2, present volume with especial interest. It is in line with the heading of this article, Concentration and Co-operation. I heartily sympathize with the sentiments expressed in Brother Lichty's article as well as with those of brother B. G. Frederick, to which he referred. If our brethren and sisters generally would keep in mind the idea of "concentration" which is one of the fundamental principles of success, they would find that in most cases they would accomplish more temporally and spiritually. There are those who are so foolish as to think that bread winning is easier where all church facilities are denied. This is a great mistake. But, suppose one could do a little better financially away from his church home, he would still be the loser. Lot pitched his tent "towards Sodom" in the midst of the rich valley land and was continually afterward vexed with the "conversation of the wicked," could not even gather around him five righteous persons. The result was that he lost all, even his wife.

Elimelech, wife and two sons went over into the land of Moab to better his temporal condition, forsaking his home and church home too. It was not long before his two sons married women of an idolatrous country. Soon both father and sons died and although Ruth became a converted woman and clave to her mother-in-law, Naomi, returning with her to the land of Israel, nothing was gained by the family in the move it had made.

The good land is not all in the hands of those who "know not God and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." The Lord's people occupy some portions of this good country. If any of our Brethren in the East contemplate coming to California and I believe many of them do at some future time, please bear this in mind that concentration and co-operation will greatly benefit you. If you will join in with us, we will be glad to co-operate with you. The membership of the Brethren church in California is chiefly found in the counties of San Joaquin, Merced, Santa Clara and San Bernardino. At Lathrop, San Joaquin county, we have maintained a continuous church organization for over thirty years and while our

county does not contain all the good and none of the evil, it will rank well with other counties. The climate is as healthful as any. Water is good and abundant.

Transportation and markets are greatly superior to most of the counties there being navigable water from the sea to within three miles of Lathrop. Average crops of wheat, barley and rye are raised without irrigation. Schools, roads and public institutions are first class and by April 1, or sooner, we expect an irrigating canal to be completed whereby twenty five thousand acres in San Joaquin, and fifteen thousand acres in Stanislaus counties can be watered and, under irrigation any kind of fruit, vegetable or cereal grown in the State can be raised here.

If any one wishes to live in the Golden State at a place free from Malaria, where the mercury in winter is very seldom lower than twenty-five degrees above zero, where there is neither snow nor frost bites, neither thunder storms nor cyclones, where the brethren maintain regular preaching and Sunday-school services, come to our county, do not scatter and deny yourselves of your own church privileges but concentrate and co operate in the work the Lord has given us to do.

The Conservative Brethren in South California are carrying out the principle of concentration and as a result are building up flourishing churches. Why cannot the Progressive Brethren do the same? Are we less loyal and devoted to our church than they? Surely not. If any wish to spend the winter in California, seek the Brethren churches. In Lathrop we can furnish you houses at a very cheap rental, this being due to the railroad employes' having to leave their homes in order to get work for the company, the railroad labor having been transferred to other places.

Again I say, when you come to California, come and visit us and we will do you good. Communications promptly answered by addressing J. P. WOLFE,

Jan. 14, '96.

Lathrop, Cal.

"THE secret of the Lord is with them that fear him, and he will show them his covenant" (Ps. 25:14). Here is the way to the understanding of God's covenant—his "secret is with them that fear him." What about the blatant infidels, the scoffing scholars, the destructive critics? Do they fear him? Are they in the way of seeing his covenant? For it is when we fear him that we get into sympathy with him, come to see things from his point of view, have fellowship with him, have his mind revealed to us, and are shown his covenant.—*Dr. John Hall.*